

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **CROOKS TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN DST DEBATE; VOWS TO PROTECT CONSTITUENT INTERESTS**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Dave Crooks (D-Washington) has been selected by legislative leaders to play a key role in final deliberations over a proposal to bring daylight-saving time to Indiana, a position that Crooks said he will use to ensure that the views of constituents are taken into account.

Crooks is the House Democrat designated to serve on a conference committee to consider Senate Bill 127, which would impose daylight-saving time on 77 counties, including those in the lawmaker's 63<sup>rd</sup> House District. Conference committees are made up of four legislators – two from the House and two from the Senate – who are designated to work out differences on specific bills before the Indiana General Assembly.

"As it now stands, Senate Bill 127 would bring daylight-saving time to those 77 counties next April," Crooks said. "The bill contains an amendment I authored that asks Gov. Mitch Daniels to request the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to conduct hearings across Indiana to investigate taking all or part of the state into the Central Time Zone, but the governor has expressed a reluctance to pursue that option in a timely fashion.

"The feelings of the people I represent in the 63<sup>rd</sup> District are very clear," he added. "They are opposed to daylight-saving time unless our state moves to Central Time. In last year's campaigns, the governor said he favored DST and Indiana going to Central Time. I intend to make sure that the governor's wishes expressed last year will be a part of the conference committee's discussions."

From the start, Crooks has supported careful deliberations on the daylight-saving time question, noting that the time change will have a huge impact on the lifestyles of millions of Hoosiers throughout Indiana.

"At one point, this legislation was going to put daylight-saving time into effect in June of this year," Crooks noted. "That is simply too soon to make such a change that will affect how we work, and the lives of our families. We need to have time to prepare people for this.

"Of course, the best alternative of all is to go into the Central Time Zone, which is the option supported by the vast majority of the people I represent," he continued. "By enacting this change in a deliberative fashion, we can take the time to petition the federal government, conduct public hearings and make the switch in time zones.

"Pursuing that option will be my primary goal during conference committee, and I am hopeful that my other conferees will see the wisdom of making a change that benefits more Hoosiers," Crooks concluded.

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